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a work exhibiting such a sane and temperate application of the new methods as does this book of Professor Zielinski's is beyond measure reassuring.

The book is printed with that almost excessive regard for the reader's eyesight by which the modern German printers seem to be trying to atone for generations of neglect. If copies of it could be placed generally in the hands of Latin teachers, it could not fail to promote that increase in breadth of view and freshness—one might almost say fervor—of spirit which the friends of classical training have come to feel as a vital need.

W. S. BURRAGE

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

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*Lucretius, De Rerum Natura.* By WILLIAM A. MERRILL. American Book Company, 1907.

The editor acknowledges his indebtedness to his great predecessors, to Lachmann, to Munro, to Giussani, and others, and the impression grows as one reads this edition that little or nothing in all the immense mass of literature on Lucretius has escaped his notice. The book has been long in making and is ambitious in its scope. There are notes on the language, on the text, on the philosophy, and on the poem as a piece of literature, but those dealing with language are the most frequent, and they are very detailed. The text has been treated conservatively and is on the whole reliable.

On the explanatory side the commentary is less satisfactory. Neither the philosophy of Lucretius nor his literary excellence has been adequately discussed or illustrated. There is still room for an edition which would furnish a thorough-going exposition of Lucretius' science, based on an easy familiarity with ancient philosophy and a fairly comprehensive grasp of the teachings of modern science. There should go with this an appreciation of the great literary value of the poem. This is a large demand, I am aware, but to gain it we might well dispense with the many pages of repetitive notes on linguistic and textual questions found in the conventional commentary. Why is it necessary that each new edition of a classical author should go on repeating the notes of his predecessors? The cumulative commentary may be necessary in a school textbook, but in an edition meant for scholars, why keep threshing over grain already well winnowed? There is new material in this edition and good material too, but why should it be necessary to read 800 pages to get it? Lachmann's work was firsthand, Munro had a fair field, Brieger's very perversity may be a recommendation, and Giussani contributes a special and an original attitude of mind toward Lucretius. What we want now is someone who has digested these editions to give us an appreciative exposition of the *De Rerum Natura* so that the poem may make its proper appeal to the scientist, the psychologist, the sociologist, and the man of letters.

M. S. S.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN